

**A MEMORIAL OF
JOSHUA BATES**

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A Memorial of Joshua Bates by Various

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VARIOUS

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JOSHUA BATES**



Joshua Ball

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OF
JOSHUA BATES,

FROM

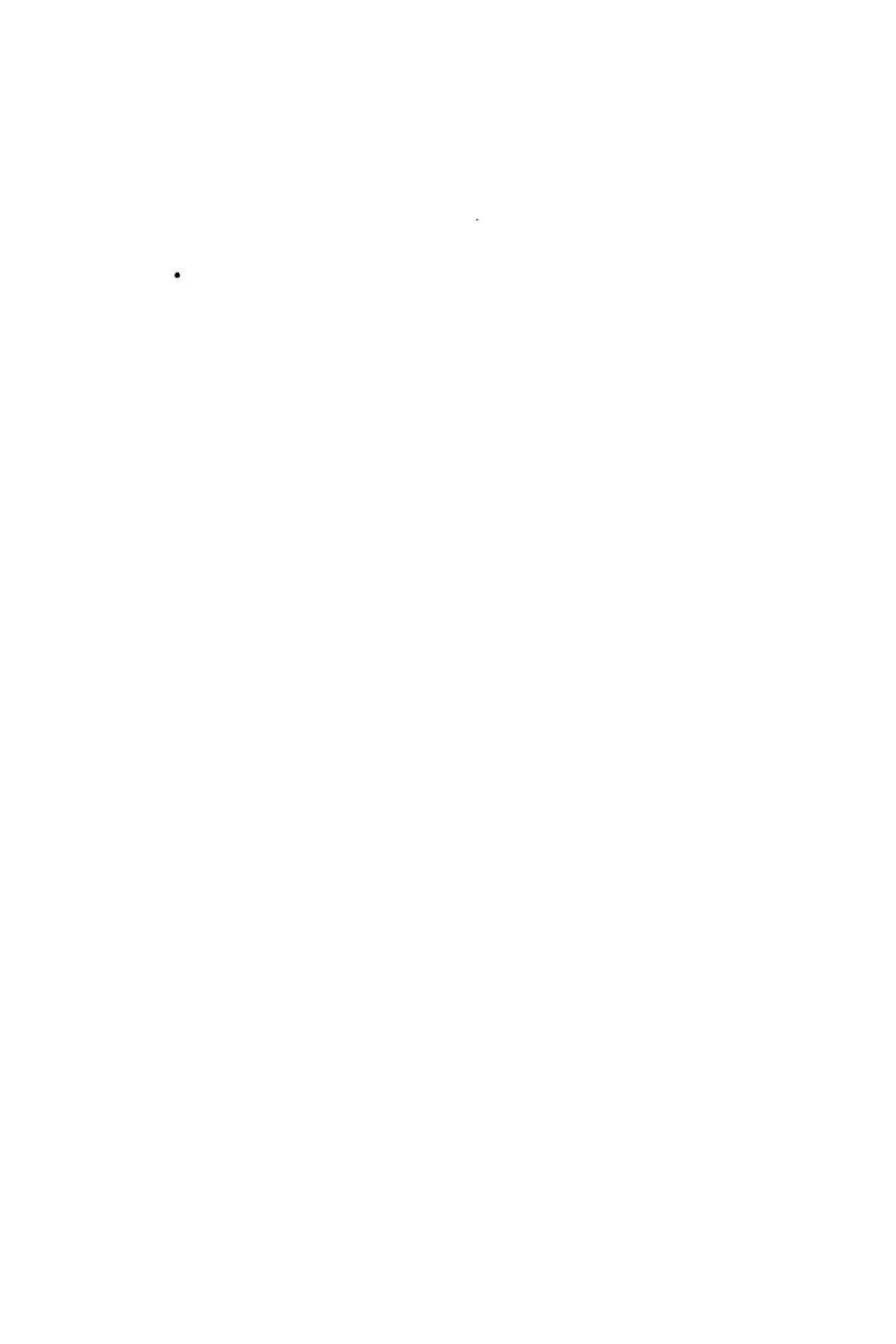
THE CITY OF BOSTON.

Boston, 1835. City Council.



BOSTON:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.
MDCCLXXXV.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Boston, held at City Hall, on Monday, the 17th day of October, 1864, HIS HONOR the MAYOR submitted the following message:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL:—

GENTLEMEN: I embrace this opportunity to lay before you the action of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library, occasioned by the recent decease of Joshua Bates, Esq., of London. The death of Mr. Bates at this time seems the more sudden from the fact that we had anticipated the pleasure, in which he had also indulged, that he should once more have an opportunity to revisit this country and to witness the good results of his noble benefactions to our city.

Born in 1788, in a neighboring town, he came to Boston to receive his mercantile education, and entered the counting-room of an eminent merchant of that time. While his faithful services gave satisfaction to his employer in business hours, he gave the proof of his character and his ambition to excel in an honorable career, by the devotion of his leisure moments to those means

at his disposal which would have a tendency to develop his intellectual powers, and advance his progress in the acquisition of useful knowledge. Books at that time were comparatively rare, and not easy to be obtained by a youth of his limited means. He has himself related that his principal opportunity for their perusal was afforded by a friendly bookseller on Washington Street, who invited him, in his unemployed evenings, to sit by the light in his shop and read the books laid upon the counters for sale.

After attaining the honorable position to which his merits entitled him as the senior partner in one of the most influential Houses in the commercial world, his memory went back to his residence in Boston; and without suggestion from any one he conceived the idea of doing something for the benefit of the community of his early home. In order that other young men, preparing for a business life, might not suffer the deprivations to which he had been subjected, but should have greater privileges than he had enjoyed, he made his first noble gift of fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of our Public Library. This has been followed, as you are aware, by donations of books to an equal amount for the same noble object. His interest in the Institution continued until his death, and his correspondence upon the subject exhibits the most comprehensive and liberal views of its benefits, particularly as connected with that system of Public Schools which has given Boston its peculiar position in the cause of education.

The influence of Mr. Bates's career as an example to

our young men, must be beneficial, and stimulate them to improvement, while they enjoy the advantages which his endowment provides. The solid foundations of his success were laid in the habits and principles which he formed in early manhood. Commencing life in humble circumstances, he obtained by his own virtues an elevated position, and could truly say, as he reviewed his past career—

"What merit to be dropped on Fortune's hill?
The honor is to mount it!"

Mr. Bates's history is an example to the rich as well as to the poor. The liberality with which he dispensed the fortune which he had acquired, is an evidence that he understood the responsibility which attends the possession of wealth, and may serve as an incentive to others who may also be blessed with affluence.

The resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees are so comprehensive, embracing in their tribute to his memory all the relations which he sustained to us and to the world, that it would be idle in me to enlarge upon the subject. His loss will be felt and mourned wherever he was known. He has erected his own monument in the city of Boston, and its citizens will ever cherish his memory as one of their greatest benefactors.

I would respectfully suggest that such official action may be entered upon the municipal records as will testify our gratitude for his munificent gifts, and our sense of the bereavement this community has suffered by his decease.

F. W. LINCOLN, Jr.

Mayor.